quality of public education and other states are now acting
to improve teachers salaries. If we take no action we are
going to fall further behind. So you see what we are trying
to do here in the Nebraska Legislature is really part of a
national effort, a national effort well grounded in studies
and in reports nationwide, identifying this as one of the
key problems and I think our vote, our position on this
particular issue   is extremely important in   terms of
signaling to the electorate   our true attitudes about
genuinely improving public education in the state.   Now I
know Senator Lamb and others argue that we should simply
provide additional state aid to school districts and this
will improve the   problem but because of   the budget
limitation restrictions, and let me remind you that the
7 percent lid does not expire until December 1st after the
local school   district budgets are   set September 1st.
Because of additional state aid dollars those things will
simply not result in higher teacher salaries.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: The State of Nebraska currently provides
only 17 percent of the cost of education while Kansas
provides 45 percent, Oklahoma 66 percent of the cost. More
than 75 percent of the cost of education comes from local
property taxes and providing teacher stipends is the one way
that will genuinely improve the lot of teachers. Improving
state aid to education simply will not.   Now I think the
time to begin is now. Now is the time to take advantage of
the momentum that has been created throughout the nation to
do something about public   education.   This bill with
teachers stipends does something about public education and
if we cut out the heart of this bill, if we adopt the Lamb
amendment, we are going to be doing a serious disservice to
public education   in Nebraska,   not just   urban public
education in Nebraska, but public education throughout the
state.   I think it is extremely important that we defeat the
Lamb amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR   REMMERS: Mr. Speaker   and   members   of   the